

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. At a meeting of a local Communist Party organization on 19 May 1954, a memorandum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party was read. In this it was pointed out that there was a wide gap between the members of the Party and the non-Party masses, especially in villages, but also in the factories. Smaller holders, for instance, continually needed to be convinced about the advantages of communal farming. The non-Party masses were not in the habit of reading the papers or listening to Party speeches on the radio and were consequently ignorant of the reasons for certain Government actions. Nor were they informed about the international situation and the peaceful intentions of the Soviet Union. This gave rise to negative criticism and the spreading of false rumors and complaints.
2. The memorandum stated that it was therefore necessary to retain the "agitation centers", established before the elections, which had proved very efficient. The number of "agitators" would have to be increased so far that each agitator would look after only 10 families. Their task would be to keep in permanent contact with these families and visit them once a month for at least two hours. It would not be sufficient to read the latest bulletins or government decrees. The families must be encouraged to take an interest and to discuss these. The agitators must keep a record of their visits and also of the attitude and reaction of the members of the families.
3. Agitation centers were to be established as follows: a minimum of one to each town, in the larger cities, and one for every three or four villages. The local office of the Party would be responsible for establishing the center in each particular town or village, i.e., organizing the offices and arranging the meetings. The leader of the center would be appointed by the district committee of the Party, which would also supervise the activities of the center. Each basic organization of the Party would appoint agitators according to the number of families in the district. All agitators should meet in the center at least once a fortnight, where they would obtain instructions and printed matter to be handed out to the families. These centers would also be used for the schooling of agitators. The basic organization could propose non-Party members or Party candidates

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as agitators, but these would have to be approved by the district committee of the Communist Party. The agitator's function was to be considered an honor and to be unpaid.

4. In the memorandum read at the meeting, blame for the present situation was put on the basic organizations and the district committees of the Communist Party for having neglected the masses and often shown a haughty attitude.
5. After the memorandum had been read, the chairman immediately started appointing agitators. He said that eight agitators were required for that particular village and appealed to members to volunteer for the work. Only one young man and one young woman, both fanatical Communists, volunteered and were promptly accepted. The chairman had great difficulty in finding six more. All who were asked excused themselves on the grounds that they were too busy or not gifted enough. Those who had experience from the pre-election campaign complained that they had been given a very cold reception by non-Party members. In the end the chairman had to resort to Party discipline and command six members - three men and three women - to accept the duties of agitators. These six immediately asked whether they could be replaced in three months. The chairman said he could not promise.

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